

# Nation

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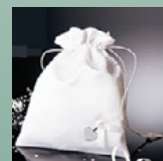
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Let's call it what it is: Canada's historical treatment of Aboriginal Peoples qualifies as a crime against humanity.

The recently unearthed documents describing horrific experiments on malnourished Native children in the 1940s and 1950s is further proof that, even after the horrors of Nazi Germany, the Canadian government treated our ancestors as less than fully human.

These medical experiments, implemented without the knowledge or consent of its subjects or their parents, were conducted after doctors began to link high rates of tuberculosis and blindness in the Manitoba village of Norway House to widespread malnutrition. Instead of treating everyone stricken with starvation-related diseases, however, these researchers let some children continue to starve while providing proper care to a portion of the community's patients.

Not surprisingly, the lucky members showed a marked improvement in health. Still, according to Canadian food historian Ian Mosby, the experiments that began in Norway House expanded to residential schools in Port Alberni, BC; Kenora, ON; Shubenacadie, NS; and Lethbridge, AB. At least 1300 Native people, most of them helpless children in residential schools, were ruthlessly used as guinea pigs by researchers probing the effectiveness of vitamin supplements.

Subjects were kept on starvation-level diets and were given or denied vitamins, minerals and certain foods. At one school, no students were allowed essential supplements. In another, researchers had a school feed their captive students less than half the recommended amount of milk rations for two years to get a "baseline" reading for the point in time that milk servings were increased. Dental services were also denied to enable researchers to measure the accuracy of their inhuman experiments, which continued for over a decade.

The Canadian government now says it is appalled to learn that federal bureaucrats may have used hungry Aboriginal children and adults as unwitting subjects in nutritional experiments. Given that this research began at the same time as the Nuremberg trials

were making worldwide headlines, there is no question that federal decision-makers didn't understand the inhumanity of their actions.

The Nuremberg trials also addressed the infamous Nazi experiments on captive human beings. Of course, the Nazis didn't consider their largely Jewish test subjects to be fully human, an attitude that enabled them to impose terrible suffering on fellow humans in the name of science. I fail to see the difference with the government-enforced starvation of Native children here. It's important to note that a House of Commons committee gave its official blessing to the continuation and expansion of nutritional experiments.

The Nuremberg trials led to the development of the Nuremberg Code. It is a fundamental international law whose first stipulation states that medical research on human subjects must never be conducted without the voluntary consent of the test subject. Another iron-clad rule forbids all unnecessary physical and mental suffering or injury. During the course of the experiment the scientist in charge must be prepared to terminate the research at any stage if he or she has probable cause to believe that a continuation of the experiment is likely to result in injury, disability, or death.

Even as the Canadian government signed on to the Nuremberg Code, it was knowingly and enthusiastically breaking it.

"Not much was learned from those hungry little bodies," said Mosby. "They knew from the beginning that the real problem and the cause of malnutrition was underfunding. That was established before the studies even started and when the studies were completed that was still the problem."

Did the Canadian government need to starve hundreds of children to see if it would have a detrimental effect on their health? Asking the question makes one wonder what the real motives could have been. We are still prosecuting 90-year-old Nazis for their roles, however small, in the Holocaust. So when will the government perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Canada be brought to justice?

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photo by:  
Donnie Nicholls

# Escape from the News

by Sonny Orr



One of the ways I keep in touch with what's happening in the world is by surfing news programs and other shows among the hundred or so channels on my television satellite system. I happen to like the old-fashioned movies because they make me laugh about how tough their times were, having to handle only a few dark strangers in a dramatic way. In a way, I kind of miss those simpler times, where nary a swear word or machine gun would upset the delicate balance of movie's skimpy plot. Those movies are in a different world and are a far cry from today's reality shows and incessant stream of bad news.

What is becoming more apparent (to me at least) is the high number of violent acts and incredibly paranoid state of mind that characterize our world. The news is awash with gunfights, missing women, education institutes attacked by crazed gunmen, buildings collapsing, huge earthquakes, corrupt politicians, cities shutting down in financial ruin and the whole depressing list goes on.

Click. My remote, useless in my hand, falls to the floor. I slowly crawl off the lazyboy and start shuffling off outdoors. The town is empty. Has the world finally quieted down? Is this possible? Slowly, the fresh air revives my body and the friendly sun warms me. I smile. This is a great day to be outside! Where is everyone? Suddenly, a cloud of dust appears and out pops people in a dusty reservation vehicle. I think to myself, wasn't that a new vehicle just last year? Then, another vehicle pops out from the grey mass of dust and onto the pavement. People who I thought I recognized but somehow, they looked older... no, it's just the dust in their hair, making them look old and grey.

Then, I remembered, this is the week that everyone heads out to the land to have fun and learn things, remember and rehash the good old days, get some teachings and eat country food cooked over fires! We all head out after working hours and prepare for some idyllic picnic time. Amazingly, everything fits in the decades-old van that I like to call My Mechanic's Best Friend. After stuffing in the custom-made grill and passengers, the van lists sideways, close to the ground and huffs off to the gathering place 2013.

Upon reaching the grounds, most of the missing people reappear. Tents and michuaps (teepees for those not in the know) dot the landscape. Kids are everywhere, playing with sticks and stones. Of course, everyone also has an iPod and we still have to contend with countless Facebook pictures when we get back to internet-access lands, but it is still reminiscent of the days of yore.

What's nice about everything is that we get to use real Indian time and have a good old time cooking, playing games and listening to the old folks, learning more and more of their past and history. These days are priceless chances to escape from the rest of the world and it's still reassuring that there isn't a crisis worthy of reaching the regional or national news. That the time to laugh and play still has a special place in life. This restores our humanity with an infectious mindset of simple peace and friendship that many people around the globe try to attain.

Night sets in and we make our way back to town and Facebookland, happy and tired. I settle back into the lazyboy. I click on my remote. Aaahhhh, I sigh, at least Rob Ford didn't make the news today...

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## EDITORIAL BOARD

L. Stewart, W. Nicholls,  
M. Siberok, N. Diamond, E. Webb

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Will Nicholls

## IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR

Brian Webb

## COPY EDITOR

Martin Siberok

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

I. Beauvais, J. East, A. German, A. Levitas,  
E. Cowan, S. Orr, J. Staniforth, X. Kataquapit,

## PHOTOGRAPHY

A. German, N. Diamond,  
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

## PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

J. East

## DIRECTOR OF FINANCES

Linda Ludwick

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire

## DESIGN AND LAYOUT

R. Lawson

## THANKS TO: Air Creebec

## WHERE TO REACH US:

## POSTMASTER:

*The Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403, MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

## EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

## *The Nation* HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.nationnews.ca

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: for Danielle Valade

ads@beesum-communications.com

for Ginette Grégoire

publicity@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: news@beesum-communications.com

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

## INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

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# Where the caribou roam

## A joint AFN and David Suzuki Foundation report rethinks the way we assess the boreal forest

by Jesse Staniforth

How much is a caribou worth? The question could be considered in terms of the food the animal provides to one's family, Elders and community. Then there is the value of the cured hide, or the way that ancestors used the bones as arrowheads, fishhooks and needles for netting snowshoes. But how much are all the caribou worth? How important is the continuing, healthy existence of the species to the Eeyouch of Eeyou Istchee and other Indigenous peoples?

That difficult question is one that the David Suzuki Foundation and the Assembly of First Nations are attempting to address with their new report, *The Cultural and Ecological Value of Boreal Woodland Caribou and Habitat*, which was completed with research by the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Research.

"Decision-makers in Canada too often look at nature as a resource to exploit and rarely calculate the broad range of socio-economic values for nearby residents and communities," David Suzuki stated in a press release. "It is time for Canada to begin calculating the true value of nature – especially the immense cultural, spiritual and ecological values."

Noting that over 300 Indigenous nations live in territories that contain caribou habitat, AFN National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo said, "It is important that these communities are consulted on the development and implementation of any recovery strategies.... First Nations place great emphasis on the integration of traditional values and community knowledge in all recovery stages under the Species at Risk Act."

Reached at the David Suzuki Foundation office in Toronto, Biodiversity Policy Analyst Rachel Plotkin

said the organization is calling upon government to expand the way it calculates the value of Crown land to include the costs protecting and maintaining the caribou's boreal forest habitat. Plotkin noted that government usually only considers the economic value of impact to industry.

In other words, she said, "Either what could industry do with this forest in

tance of being on the land. Ecological values include issues like flood control, carbon sequestration, and air and water purification.

Though the report refers to the 2002 Species at Risk Act (SARA), designed to help Canada meet commitments under the International Convention on Biological Diversity, Plotkin said that the report doesn't pertain only to those species indicated as being at risk in that document. The George River caribou herd, which at times migrates through Eeyou Istchee, is in drastic decline yet is not considered at risk under SARA.

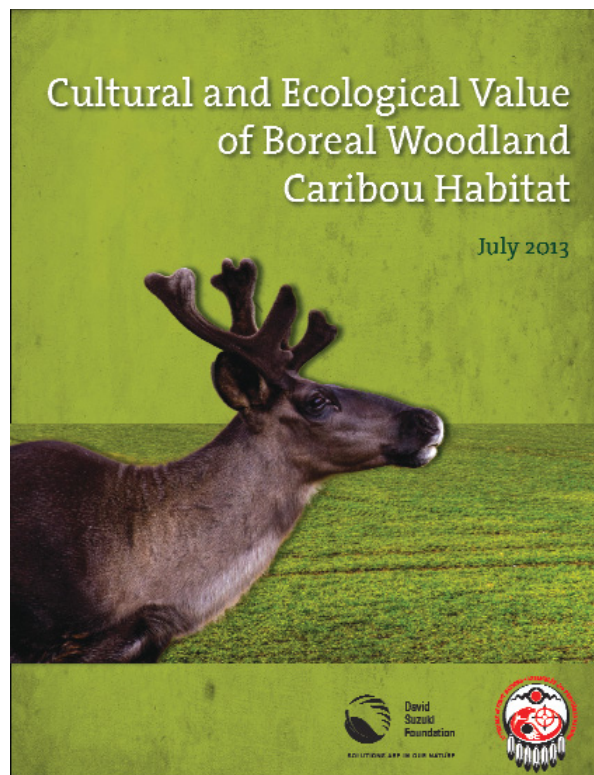
"When government is about to embark on planning, usually they have a narrow framework looking at what economic impacts are going to be," Plotkin observed.

Plotkin said the report intends to broaden public evaluations of natural habitats beyond token attempts at "engaging" Indigenous nations so that they get a portion of the economic proceeds from development.

"How do we engage First Nations so that they can meaningfully be at the table and ensure their ecological security needs are met?" she asked. "That ecosystems remain healthy in order to support the wildlife systems on which First Nations communities rely?"

The report encourages a complete overhaul in assessment criteria of boreal forest habitats. It recommends including a greater variety of values than those that strictly serve the interests of resource-extraction industries.

"We're trying to change the framework in terms of what's considered," Plotkin said. "There are more than economic values that should come into play when making land-use decisions."



terms of monetary value for resource extraction, or what is industry going to lose if it can't access the forest. What we're calling on government to do is expand this type of assessment so that [it includes both] cultural values and the ecological values that are provided by a healthy, functioning ecosystem."

Cultural values include the value caribou provide to different First Nations, said Plotkin, including reciprocity, self-sufficiency, the nourishment of healthy country food and the spiritual impor-



*Heartfelt congratulations are extended to Matthew Coon Come, Grand Chief and Rodney Mark, Deputy Grand Chief for their recent election.*

*We look forward to prosperous cultural and social development for the Cree Nation under your governance and guidance.*

*The Chibougamau Eenu Friendship Centre and the urban aboriginal community*



On behalf on the staff at Aanishchaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, we would like to offer our congratulations to newly elected Cree Nation Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark. We look forward in working with them to address the priority areas at Aanishchaaukamikw, and the continuing role of the museum and cultural centre in the future of the Cree Nation.



## Newalta congratulates the newly elected leaders of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

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## Aboriginal presence

### The First Peoples' Festival keeps growing in its 23rd year

by Akiva Levitas

This year's Montreal First Peoples' Festival got off to a roaring start July 30 before a packed auditorium at the Grande Bibliothèque for the world premiere of *Paroles Amérikoises* by Pierre Bastien. For the third consecutive year, the week-long festival hosted live concerts and cultural events at downtown Montreal's Place des Festivals.

The festival's signature giant teepee is now a regular sight on the Montreal festival circuit, which draws thousands of tourists from all over the world to experience Aboriginal creativity.

"This festival is unique because it is the only one that has been growing steadily in the last few years within all of the five main demographic age groups," observed organizer André Dudemaine. "It just goes to show how this festival attracts people of all ages and generations."

Quebec Aboriginal Affairs Minister Élisabeth Larouche attended the opening ceremony along with Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. "This festival has continued being a source of pride and a draw for tourists to Quebec," Larouche said. "It is important to continue celebrating our Aboriginal heritage through such festivals and Quebec will continue its support."

Picard, who was a surprise guest, joked that he was attending the ceremony as a "tourist."

"Twenty-three years hosting this festival has given the event a great standing in Quebec and beyond," Picard said.

"Amidst all of the celebration we must not forget those who rose up with Idle No More and why they must continue."

The evening started with the screening of two shorts – *L'Enfance déracinée* by noted Innu documentary filmmaker Réal Junior Leblanc, and *Umätu, le chant du Notou*, a film from New Caledonia.

Leblanc's short touched on the scars left by residential schools on those who survived through poetry and haunting visuals. Working with Wapikoni Mobile, Leblanc's work is a testament to the powerful imagery and narrative that can be told through the lens of local Aboriginal filmmakers when given the opportunity. *Umätu* had a more light-hearted tale by a local storyteller of how the Umätu bird got its name.

The opening film, *Paroles Amérikoises*, focuses on a diverse group of Quebec and Aboriginal writers who embark on a

camping trip to experience northern Quebec. Despite its documentary style, the film takes on an almost surreal quality



*Paroles amérikoises*, by Pierre Bastien

with the vast emptiness and beautiful landscape providing the setting for a wide-ranging discussion of social issues. Emotions run high and passionate as the group discusses the impact of hydro dams and other forms of development.

The standing ovation continued long after the lights came back on as the opening ceremony ended. With its strong line-up of events, the Montreal First Peoples' Festival had something for everyone, from concerts and films to activities and traditional dancers.



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**Congratulations to Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark for their recent election! We wish you a term of prosperity and growth for the Cree Nation!**  
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 Cree-Naskapi Commission

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 La commission Crie-Naskapie

The Cree-Naskapi Commission congratulates Matthew Coon Come upon his election as the Grand Chief/Chairperson of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Regional Authority and Rodney Mark upon his election as the Deputy Grand Chief/Vice Chairperson of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority.

*The commission supports the elected leadership of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/ Cree Regional Authority in the pursuit of the goals, objectives and aspirations of the Eeyou of the Eeyou Istchee as a self-governing people.*

Congratulations to the newly elected Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief as they embark on their journey as the leaders of Eeyou Istchee. We wish the people of Eeyou Istchee prosperity and happiness for generations to come.

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photo: Youtube



A screengrab from a video reportedly showing Norbert Mestenapeo being beaten by SQ officers.

## Police attack goes viral

A YouTube video posted in July appears to expose a case of police brutality against an Innu man in eastern Quebec. The victim in the video, 24-year-old Norbert Mestenapeo of Unamen Shipu (La Romaine), claims to have been on his way to a convenience store in town when two Sûreté du Québec officers approached him.

The video, taken by a bystander from inside a car, shows the officers striking Mastenapeo repeatedly with their fists and a baton as he struggles on the ground. The moments leading up to the physical altercation were not recorded.

A SQ spokesperson said that the police force is aware of the video and is currently investigating the officers' conduct as well as Mestenapeo's behaviour.

The video raised concerns for many First Nations communities in Quebec. Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador,

demanding an immediate response from the provincial and federal governments.

"First Nations Elders, women and youth, in their communities or cities, are scared," said Picard in an open letter to the public. "They are scared of things getting out of control again. It is not normal. It is not acceptable."

Picard's letter stresses the need to re-establish First Nations police forces in the Native communities where provincial authorities recently took over policing responsibilities.

At press time, the SQ's investigation was still ongoing.

## Mohawks and Mi'gmaq team up for education

The Mohawk community of Kahnawake and the Mi'gmaq community of Listuguj are embarking on a historic partnership by launching the First Nations Regional Adult Education Centre (FNRAEC), Quebec's first English-language adult education centre geared toward Aboriginal students.

Opening in September, the FNRAEC will offer quality education while paying tribute to First Nations' cultural values by including courses in Kanienkeha and Mi'gmaq languages and cultures, as well as other courses pertaining to cultural revitalization.

"We're going to focus on letting you take the lead and help us determine how

we can help you reach your goals," said Diane Labelle, the director of the Kahnawake campus.

Here, students will have access to support services, such as counselling and mentoring. Staff and teachers will be able to keep better tabs on how each student is doing, due to the smaller classrooms with a maximum of 10 students per class.

"It takes a lot of courage to be able to face large classes, to be in an environment where you are a minority and with people who really don't know you, so you're just a number," said Labelle. "Here it will be very different, we will know you."

The FNRAEC will also offer night courses in academic upgrading and languages.

The Mi'gmaq community wants the same thing for their students, a place to call their own, with the same attention given to individual students. "The biggest obstacle this centre will solve for Listuguj is the sense of increased self-esteem and cultural identity within our people, which is the foundation for academic, personal or career advancement," said assistant director Dr. Cathy Martin.

The Listuguj campus boasts staff member and teachers of Mi'gmaq decent. "This in itself will allow the Listuguj campus to thrive, as it is truly an adult education centre for Mi'gmaq people by Mi'gmaq people," said Martin.

The grand opening for the Kahnawake campus will be on September 17 and October 29 for the Listuguj campus.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: [www.tundracomics.com](http://www.tundracomics.com)



# Election talk

## Grand Council winners and also-rans discuss the campaign

by Amy German

Hotly contested run-off elections July 26 for the top two spots on the Grand Council of the Crees resulted in the re-election of Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and a victory for former Weminji Chief Rodney Mark in his bid to become the new Deputy Grand Chief.

The Nation spoke with the winners and their run-off opponents: former Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff, who challenged Coon Come for the top job; and Linda Lillian Shecapio, who finished 400 votes behind Mark in the second-round ballot for Deputy. The four candidates reflected on the campaign, the results and the future political challenges for the Cree Nation.

### MATTHEW COON COME

**The Nation:** *How will this election stand out in your mind?*

**Matthew Coon Come:** Over the last four years we have undertaken several ambitious and innovative initiatives. What comes to mind is our Governance Agreement and our opposition to uranium mining. Very often, with innovation comes certain risks – risks that the people we serve might not find these innovations in keeping with their values and not in keeping with their visions of the future. For me, this election represents a confirmation that we have been on track and the things we have done are in keeping with our people's expectations of us as their leaders.

These elections also took place against a backdrop of important events that were taking place on the national stage. We had the Idle No More Movement, the hunger strike of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence and we had the remarkable march of our own Nishiyuu walkers. Important issues were raised nationally and all these ideas were swirling around as our own elections were taking place. The fact that we were re-elected in this context represents, for me, a vindication and affirmation that we have been leading in accordance with the

highest aspirations and the highest ideals among our own people and also among Indigenous peoples across the country.

**TN:** *What remarks would you like to pass along to those you ran with?*

**MCC:** Very often, over the course of the election campaign, I said that to achieve the goal of a strong Indigenous Nation we will require all of us working together. We will require all of us striving to be the best we can be in our chosen fields, and all of us working to make a real contribution to the building of the Cree Nation. When I say that we will now need everyone's contribution to the mission of continuing to build the Cree Nation, this includes my fellow candidates as well.

So, I say to them that their nation needs them. There are many ways to make a contribution to that goal and even though they were not successful in their quest for the role of Grand Chief I would encourage them to apply their skills, their values and their commitment to continue the journey of the Cree Nation. We cannot afford to have anyone feel alienated or apart from this important journey, especially when they have so much to offer. I would also say the same thing to those candidates who were not successful in their bids to become Deputy Grand Chief. We need you all.

**TN:** *What would you like to say to those who voted you back in?*

**MCC:** What I would say to those who voted for us to continue our leadership, and what I would say to all those who participated in the election, is that there is no more humbling an experience than to obtain the confidence and the respect of your own people. Through this election you have expressed your trust in the path that we have taken over the past four years and you have expressed your wish to see the mission of building a proud, a prosperous and healthy Cree Nation continue. For this I am deeply and humbly grateful. I promise that the vision that we have been working hard to bring into reality





will remain in our hearts and in our minds and will continue to sustain us and to guide us.

**TN:** *What are the most important things on your to-do list and short-term goals?*

**MCC:** During the campaign I announced a platform that described the important issues that we need to focus on to continue building the Cree Nation. Some of these issues require our attention in the short term while others, though no less important, are more long term in nature.

In the short term, we need to move forward on the effective implementation of the Governance Agreement. We need to work on the enhancement of our Cree Nation government regarding our new responsibilities on Category II lands, both in terms of structures and personnel. We will also need to work on the establishment of the new regional government.

One of the key pillars in my election platform was to encourage and support our youth to bring their energies and talents to the task of Cree Nation-building. Following on the success of the Roundtable on Cree Capacity-Building, we will bring the message of that important event to all Cree youth.

We will take the message to the communities' youth that the future depends on them and they must prepare them-

selves, and also, that we will be there to support them.

We will be coming forward with an approach to addressing the housing shortfall in our communities. This is now our responsibility and we will solve it ourselves.

We will continue to do what needs to be done to protect the land and our people from uranium

mining. We will remain vigilant and make sure that nothing is done at the level of the mining companies or the governments, which could jeopardize our position on this important issue.

During the campaign, I said that as we move forward in building the Cree Nation we would leave no one behind. There are a number of groups in this category. In the short term, we will focus on moving the agenda forward on Washaw Sibi. The community is now in the process of selecting a site for the new village and we will be there to support them and help them to achieve their dream of having their own home.

**TN:** *And what will you be adding as long-term goals?*

**MCC:** There are a number of initiatives described in our election platform which could be called long term. By calling them "long term," it doesn't mean that we will only start working on them some time down the road. We call them "long term" only because it may take a bit longer to achieve them, but we will start working on them immediately. In reality, everything is short term.

We will start working to develop some innovative and pioneering approaches to deal with the serious social problems in our communities. As a beginning we must acknowledge the social problems in our communities. We will appeal to individuals, families and our

communities to acknowledge the problems so that effective solutions can be identified. We will need healthy families and healthy communities if we hope to build a healthy nation.

In the area of economic development, we must ensure that our people are prepared to take advantage of the economic opportunities coming from all of our agreements and all the resource development that will be taking place within Eeyou Istchee.

Whether we are talking about youth, young adults or older adults, we will continue to emphasize the importance of human-resource development so that we can become the major economic and political force in the region. This is our long-term goal.

Because we have been successful in our pioneering work in translating our Aboriginal rights into tangible benefits for our people, many of us feel a sense of responsibility toward our Aboriginal brothers and sisters across the country as they struggle to assert their Aboriginal rights. We will reach out and offer our help to those First Nations and nations that are grappling with the same issues we have faced in the past. We will share our experiences and offer our advice where it is asked for and where it is appropriate. This will be our way of giving back.

**TN:** *Is there anything else you would like to say?*

**MCC:** I would just like to say a few words about elections. In addition to elections being the way in which people can express their views about their leaders, and in addition to providing the means for bringing about change when that is desired, elections can also be an opportunity to renew our sense of purpose and to renew our sense of unity. Although we may have different perspectives and different viewpoints, elections remind us that we are all in this together and they remind us that our unity is more important than the different views we may have. This was really at the heart of the message that our Nishiyuu walkers reminded us of this past spring.

Our Nishiyuu walkers brought this message from Eeyou Istchee to Canada



The Town of Rouyn-Noranda wish to congratulate the new leaders of the Cree Nation on their successful election. We are looking forward to continue growing our ties together.  
All the best!

Mario Provencher



**Congratulations to  
Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Deputy  
Grand Chief Rodney Mark.**

**On behalf of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Council  
and Members of the Moose Cree First Nation,  
we wish you many years of continued  
success & prosperity.**

**Chief Norm Hardisty Jr.**

**stornoway**  
DIAMOND CORPORATION

Stornoway Diamond Corporation, its Management team and their employees wish to express their congratulations to the newly elected **Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Matthew Coon Come**, and the new **Deputy Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Rodney Mark**.

*We wish you all the best in your current mandate.*

## The Renard Project

Building Québec's First Diamond Mine

**Patrick Houle**  
Manager, Community Relations & Development  
email: [phoule@stornowaydiamonds.com](mailto:phoule@stornowaydiamonds.com) | tel (418) 748-4566  
cell (418) 770-6387 | fax (418) 748-4591

**stornoway**  
DIAMOND CORPORATION



and around the world. I would like to say to the people of Eeyou Istchee, let us now come full circle and remind ourselves of this important message. As we embark on the continuation of our journey to build the Cree Nation let us, together and in unity, commit to encouraging each other to be the best we can be. Let us commit to encouraging and supporting our youth to dream big dreams and to achieve beyond their dreams. Let us, together and in unity, enter the future with a sense of mission and purpose. This will be the best legacy we can leave for the next generation. Meegwetch.

## RODNEY MARK

**The Nation:** What would you like to say to everyone who voted for you?

**Rodney Mark:** I wish to thank everyone who voted. My warmest regards to all the candidates – I know how challenging this was. Please don't lose that excitement; other adventures will come. I want to express my deepest thanks to the individuals who nominated me and to those who believe in the issues I addressed during my campaign. Thank you so much.

**TN:** Do you have any reflections on your campaign that you would like to share? And, was there anything special that happened along the way that will influence your thinking as you begin your new position?

**RM:** I am grateful. I believe we have a lot of people in our communities who care about our nation and our communities and entities. People want clean and safe communities. A reflection of all of this is the excitement people had about what is possible in our communities and what we can do.

**TN:** How will you be implementing your campaign promises?

**RM:** I didn't make any promises. However, I brought up issues that need to be put as a priority for our communities. A team approach is how I plan to do implement them.



**TN:** What excites you most about becoming Deputy Grand Chief?

**RM:** What is exciting about this is working with the Grand Chief, the chiefs on the Grand Council and the Cree Regional Authority directors. I can't wait to get going.

**TN:** What is your plan to support the Grand Chief?

**RM:** Team approach is the plan. This is how I worked as a chief and that's way I plan to achieve my goals and the Grand Chief's goals.

**TN:** Is there anything you would like to add?

**RM:** Our lives are awesome. We should have awesome lives. Let's build a kickass Nation.

## ASHLEY ISERHOFF

**The Nation:** How do you feel looking back at the campaign?

**Ashley Iserhoff:** The campaign was interesting. I had a great time going out to the communities and being involved in the debates and being able to share my ideas with the people. This is something that I will always remember.

Wherever I went, I always had someone to talk to and it was great to have



## Congratulations to the new team of the GCC Eeyou Istchee!

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THE CREE NATION  
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ECONOMIC ALLIANCE

Congratulations to Grand Chief  
Matthew Coon Come and Deputy  
Grand Chief Rodney Mark on their  
wins in the election of the Grand  
Council of the Cree.

We look forward to many more  
successes with you.

All the best!

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Cree School Board  
Commission scolaire Crie

The Cree School Board would like to extend their congratulations  
to Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come and Deputy Grand Chief  
Rodney Mark on the recent elections to their respective positions  
for the Grand Council of the Cree's of Eeyou Istchee.

We wish you continuous strength and courage in bringing  
prosperity to our people and youth in our vibrant and strong  
Cree Nation.

All the best!

On behalf of the Council of Commissioners and CSB Senior Management,

Kathleen Wootton,  
Chairperson

Abraham Jolly  
Director General



them share their ideas with me and to be in continuing service to the Cree Nation.

The loss was something that was pretty well expected. I began to see that there was a movement to ensure that there was continuity in terms of the work that was already being done. That was the message that I was getting.

In terms of being out of office now, when I woke up the morning after the election, I expressed a big sigh of relief. The responsibilities I had as Deputy Grand Chief were a lot and I knew that I would have been dealing with a lot more had I become Grand Chief. So, I am very happy that the election is over and I look forward to all of the other new opportunities that will be coming my way soon.

**TN: How many years have you spent in public office now?**

**AI:** As Deputy Grand Chief I was in for eight years and then I was involved locally with the Youth Council – it's been about 25 years in total.

**TN: Could you see this as a sign from above that maybe it's time to do something different?**

**AI:** I have always had dreams. Serving the Cree Nation has been an honour and a privilege. Whenever I spoke in schools, I would tell the youth that there are over 7 billion people in the world and so the world is waiting for them to get out and see it. Don't limit themselves to Eeyou Istchee, but show the world what their talents are.

Age should never be a barrier. When you limit yourself with a number, you are just limiting your potential. I have a lot of things to look forward to. It may not be within the Cree Nation, instead I may be doing something for the outside. This is something that I have talked to the young people about, their chance to get outside of the Cree Nation.

At the moment I have the opportunity to do a Master's program to finish my degree in Public Administration and they would take into consideration all of my years of public service. I studied Public Administration with several professors who had come up to Mistassini nine years ago. While I started this back then, a year into it I was elected as Deputy

Grand Chief and so I couldn't continue to work on the degree.

In the past, there were misconceptions about me and my education as there were lots of rumours circulating that I had never completed high school, which isn't true. I did.

Rumours are pretty nasty, but they are just rumours.

During the election there were rumours that came about both Matthew and I and at the time I was flabbergasted. There were people I met face-to-face who had written things about me (on Facebook) who wouldn't say something to me.



**TN: What would you like to say to the Crees who voted for you?**

**AI:** I would like to thank them. I would like to thank not just my supporters, but also everyone in the Cree Nation who was so very passionate about this election. Their passion inspired a lot of discussions and I hope these discussions continue.

Just because there is an election happening, that does not mean that this should be the only time when people get involved. The work doesn't finish at the end of a general assembly or community meeting. People need to be passionate and continue to be passionate about the various endeavours happening throughout the nation and these are things that need to be remembered.

The Cree School Board needs help from parents and with all of the social stuff we are going through, we really need help there. We shouldn't be waiting for the person who is in power to do something for us, we need to get out there and do these things too and get

involved. This was something I really learned during my eight years as Deputy.

**TN: You really inspired passion in so many, how did it feel to ride this wave?**

**AI:** It was quite an experience to be able to inspire (people). I have always believed that my parents have been my best support and they were a huge support of me in this endeavour. I want to thank them for that as well as my brothers, my nieces and nephews and my friends. They have all been there for me since day one when I was Deputy Grand Chief and in other positions too.

I don't think I would ever be able to do what I did before if it wasn't for all of the support and encouraging words that I was given by my loved ones and friends. I will always remember all of the stuff that I learned from our people. And I will always remember all of the meetings I sat in, both formal and informal, as well as the sittings down with Elders.

What I have learned over the years has had and will continue to have such an impact on my life. I will use the teachings of our people wherever I go.

**TN: Is this it for you and politics?**

**AI:** I don't know. You try to do good and you try to do as much as you can in politics, but I find that no matter what you do, people always try to find ways to make you look bad.

**TN: This is public life though.**

**AI:** Yes, I know that there was a focus on my love of travel and how I would spend a few days here and there wherever I went. I found that there was a huge spotlight on that.

Yet, when I tweeted out where I was for meetings and all of the other successful stuff that we accomplished and all of the great things we were doing as a nation, there was never much attention given to that.

I am used to public life and the ridicule and the accusations that comes with it, but for right now I would like my life to focus on something else.

If my dreams do come true and that door opens for me, I am going to go for it.



# Calling all Eeyou artists!

The Eeyou Marine Region Boards are holding a

## Logo Design Contest!

It's open to all Cree artists, no matter the age or artistic skill level.

We are looking for three logos—one for each institution created under the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement:



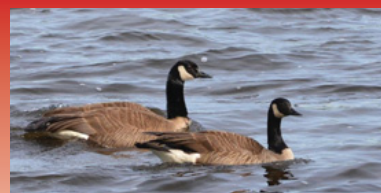
**The Eeyou Marine Region  
Impact Review Board (EMRIRB)**

Mandate: to review the eco-systemic and socio-economic impacts of project proposals. The logo should reflect potential developments as well as nature in the offshore.



**The Eeyou Marine Region  
Planning Commission (EMRPC)**

Mandate: to guide the development of planning policies, priorities and objectives. The commission will protect how Cree land is used, so the ways that Crees use the land should be reflected in the logo.



**The Eeyou Marine Region  
Wildlife Board (EMRWB)**

Mandate: to manage and regulate wildlife and harvesting. The logo should reflect the wildlife of the offshore—polar bears, whales, seals, waterfowl, etc.—as well as Cree hunting and traditions.

The logos should be inspired by the importance that Crees of Eeyou Istchee attach to the offshore region and its wildlife resources but must also be clearly distinct from one another.

The contest winners will receive a prize for each logo:  
First prize: \$500 Second prize: \$400 Third prize: \$300

The competition will close on September 30, 2013.

Selection of the winners will be made by the members of the Boards and Commission.

An announcement will be made immediately following the decision.

For more information on the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement, please visit [www.gcc.ca](http://www.gcc.ca).

To enter the contest, please send your drawings to:

Marina Katawapit, c/o Embassy of the Cree Nation, 81 Metcalfe Street, Suite 900, Ottawa, ON K1P 6K7

Thank you and good luck!

All contest submissions including the images will become the property of the Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board, the Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board. Drawings may be altered at the discretion of these entities, or several drawings (or parts of them) may be merged to better represent the spirit of the institutions' mandates.



If I were ever asked to run again, I would really have to think about it because of what has happened with this last experience. I don't really know if I want to go through this again. I want to focus my energies on things that are good and I want to do something different.

**TN: Any short-term and long-term goals?**

**AI:** Right now, I will probably take a month off and look at the opportunities that are out there for me. I have to evaluate where I want to go and what I want to do.

I have always enjoyed speaking and motivating people to do well and so this is something that is also a possibility for me. My new website may just open up this door for me.

I am not limiting myself to doing something local either, I would like to go world wide with this. I have spoken at schools in the Cree Nation and in Toronto. It looks very promising and I have a lot of support.

I want to go wherever I can go to inspire people. Where I am invited I will go. My life in politics has temporarily come to an end, but I will continue to find other ways to help people.

## LINDA LILLIAN SHECAPIO

**The Nation: How was your experience running for office?**

**Linda Lillian Shecapio:** My experience in running for the Deputy Grand Chief has indeed brought more abundance and enriched my life and I had the privilege to connect and interact with the grassroots of Eeyou Istchee. It has provided me with greater depth of understanding, in terms of their multiplex and unique challenges that they face in their respective communities. I can now say, the majority of the Cree Nation now knows me and has heard my message for healing needed in Eeyou Istchee, in which I was amazed with the support I received. Overall, my heart was open and receptive to all good throughout my experience and it has provided me more supportive and nourishing choices, as I continue healing in my life for a peaceful,

healthy and happy one. I am enjoying the feeling of just letting me be who I am.

**TN: Do you think you would you run again?**

**LLS:** It was an exciting run in the run-off elections. Foremost, when I accepted my nomination, I went in there with love and acceptance. Acceptance is giving ourselves and others the ability to just be. I also believed that Chimaandou/Creator already chose the two leaders beforehand, in which I am really grateful for my peaceful journey and humbleness throughout the whole election process.

At this point in my life, I ran twice in elections at the local and regional level, and it provided me with wonderful experiences, and I was courageous enough to give it a shot at the regional level. However, I believe that this is a sign for me to go and discover my other oppor-



tunities, other than politics. I strongly believe that Chimaandou/Creator has other plans for me, for whatever my life purpose may be.

I will leave you all with this positive note that, in trying times, these are stepping stones towards one's life purpose and acknowledging more of one's powerful gifts, as one co-creates his/her life and for the discovery of higher self. In all experiences, there is always a hidden inside every lesson... it is the being of willing to change.

**TN: Is there anything you would like to say to the other candidates?**

**LLS:** To our chosen leaders – congratulations to Grand Chief Matthew Coon

Come and Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark, I believe that they are both remarkable men and they will be a great team, along with all our Chiefs and Council Board members of Eeyou Istchee. I simply wish them the very best and whatever the experiences they may encounter, only affirm that good will come. I also know that both of our leaders are supported and loved by their beautiful wives. From this support and guidance will embark both men towards their commitment and responsibility in Eeyou Istchee. May Chimaandou/Creator continue to bless you in abundance and guide you and your families in the positive direction for all your actions and commitment towards Eeyou Istchee.

**TN: What are your plans for the future?**

**LLS:** Presently, I am back in action at the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association to complete my contract work with them in Gatineau, Quebec. On a personal note, throughout my healing journey, it has tremendously grounded me with inner peace and I choose not to worry but to live in the moment because it is what makes my life beautiful and lovable. Recently, I was given a spirit name, "Queshquen-sqwueh" meaning "Cloud Woman," which I am yet to discover and to be guided towards my life purpose. I will continue to advocate those issues (my campaign platform) that are set in my heart.

However, in the meantime, I will continue to knock on the many available doors of the Cree organizations and entities for consulting services, as my heart is for my people of Eeyou Istchee. But I also plan to expand my horizons to other organizations in the Ottawa-Gatineau area and beyond.

What I know for sure, I will have to re-visit my vision board. Like I mentioned, I am not worried at all... I honestly feel there is something extraordinary coming my way. With acceptance, I believe that I am where I am meant to be in time and space. All is well... all in Chimaandou's/Creator's timing.

Once again, Misti-Meegwetch to all my supporters and encouragers! Love you all

# Celebrating traditions

## Mistissini hosts its first traditional powwow

written by Akiva Levitas   photos courtesy of Theresa MacLeod

The first Mistissini powwow was a huge hit with locals and hordes of visitors who attended the two-day event July 19-20. For an inaugural powwow, the Mistissini Niimuhiikaan came off smoothly despite difficult weather conditions, with close to 100 dancers and eight drum groups giving it all they had during the festivities. Bear Creek, a Grammy-nominated drum group, hosted the powwow drums along with singer-songwriter Melissa Pash from Chisasibi.

"It was a big powwow considering it was our first one," said organizer Luke MacLeod. "The vendors were all really happy, even though we had to move them indoors because of the weather. Some stayed outdoors, but still got a lot of

people." The auditorium was packed with around 500 spectators enjoying all the goods and crafts sold by local artisans.

The powwow's name came from a conversation with an Elder, who told MacLeod of dancing songs called Niimuhiikaan. Community Elders expressed pleasure at seeing the traditional drums want them to be played more often. "It is something that we hope to incorporate further into future powwows," said MacLeod.

It's taken a long time for the first traditional powwow to take place in Mistissini. "We've had other events before, which we called powwows but they were more like summer games," MacLeod said. "This time it was a traditional







type of powwow with the big drums and dancers.”

Niimuhiikaan has already left its mark on many of the youth who participated as dancers and drummers as well as on visitors who were impressed by the natural beauty and culture of Mistissini. The two days of festivities included a walking-out ceremony and a traditional feast for the entire community. “It’s opened a door for a lot of people to come up and just visit,” said MacLeod.

The newly inaugurated event meant a lot of work for the largely inexperienced organizers. “It took us awhile and it was tough going, but we learned,” MacLeod said.



photo by Donnie Nicholls

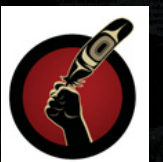
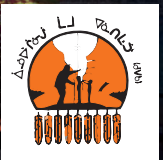
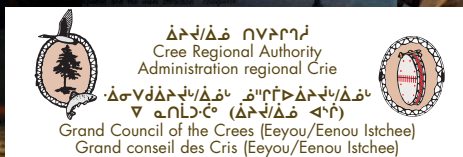
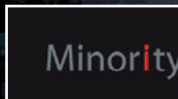






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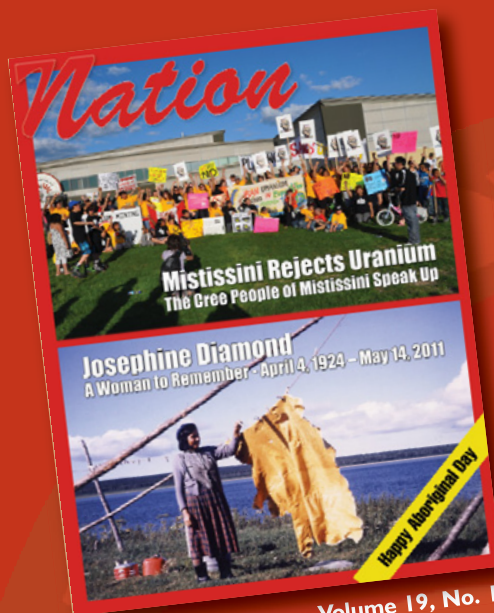
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**T**he *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 6 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20<sup>th</sup> collector's edition issue.



Volume 19, No. 16

June 15, 2012

## No glow! Mistissini rejects uranium mining

By Will Nicholls

You could hear a pin drop when Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio took the podium on June 5. He was there to tell the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission what the Mistissini Band Council, the Cree Nation of Mistissini and the Cree people of Mistissini decided, not only for Strateco's exploration plans, but for all uranium exploration and mining in the Mistissini territory.

"I will be clear and I will be firm. There will be no uranium exploration on our traditional land," said Shecapio, adding, "I can assure the people of Mistissini that I will do whatever it takes to protect our land and our rights."

Shecapio said this decision was reached after listening to Mistissini Cree people. He welcomed the fact there was a packed auditorium and thank everyone for coming as well as those who participated or would do so at the hearing. "These people are the reason we are here tonight. As a First Nation collectively, they are the guardians of the land and of our distinct identity," said Shecapio. He thanked the tallymen for their input in coming to Mistissini's decision.

**"I WILL BE CLEAR AND I WILL BE FIRM. THERE WILL BE NO URANIUM EXPLORATION ON OUR TRADITIONAL LAND."**



Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio



...gion is...  
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Registration for the event is free and...  
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# Favorite covers from 2012



20<sup>th</sup> flashback brought to you by  
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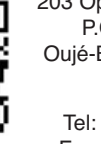
- General Criteria for Incentive Awards
- Cree beneficiary of the JBNQA & a recognized Band member;
  - Successfully completed a program in an accredited institution & demonstrated academic excellence with a cumulative grade point average of 75% or more;
  - Applications for incentive awards must be submitted within one year after graduating;
  - Deadline for applications is September 30 of each year & the Panel meets annually in December to review all the submissions to the Fund.

Get the complete information by calling the Board of Compensation at 418-745-3931 or via email: [emark@boc-creeco.ca](mailto:emark@boc-creeco.ca).

**We wish all students a great return to their studies and success in their educational pursuits!**

**Darlene Cheechoo,**  
*Chairperson & the Board of Directors  
CRA Board of Compensation*

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**COUNTDOWN TO 20<sup>TH</sup>... 6 ISSUES LEFT**

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...he CSU has struggled exponentially...  
...are than southern schools when it came...  
...hiring quality teachers with good...  
...aching credentials."

...respect...  
...the future



Catch the radio show called "Iiyuu Companii Tipaachimuun" on JBCCS every 2 weeks  
Thursday mornings at 8:15-8:45am and replayed on Saturday mornings at 9am.

# IYUU COMPANII TIPAACHIMUUN

A presentation of The Board of Compensation and  
the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company



A TALK WITH

**Darlene Cheechoo,**

*Chairperson of the Board of Compensation and CREECO*

A Cree woman from Waskaganish, with an impressive resume of a Masters of Law, Degrees in Common Law, Civil Law, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts, she worked with various Cree entities. She was first elected to the CRA Board of Compensation in 2008, and in December 2012, she was elected chairperson of BOC CREECO.

**It has been over 6 months since you became the Chairperson/President of the Board of Compensation and the Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company? How is it going so far?**

Watchiya. It has been going very well and has been very busy. I came into the position already very familiar with the company and subsidiary files as a previous board member and wanted to get more familiar with the details of each operation and the staffing.

**You have also had some high profile staff changes as well.**

Yes, the Director of Gestion ADC, Anthony MacLeod resigned in January and we have since hired Darren MacLeod as the new Director. He assumed his duties in mid-June. We also hired Robert Baribeau as the new President/CEO of CCDC as William MacLeod is officially retiring at the beginning of September.

**So far, what has been the highlight?**

To date, that all the companies are operating well. We owe that to our strong management team and staff and the leadership that has been displayed by the Board of Directors.

**How is Air Creebec and Valpiro doing?**

Air Creebec under the President, Matthew Happyjack is doing extremely well and has recently added two new planes that are already in full operation and operating at maximum capacity. Valpiro, which operates under Air Creebec, continues to do amazingly well and operates very smoothly under the watchful eye of our manager, Jasmin Frappier.

**How are CCDC and Gestion ADC doing?**

With the new President in place, CCDC is just going through transition to new management and they have since assumed full authority. As well, with Darren MacLeod taking over as Director of Gestion ADC, he is familiarizing himself with the operations and staff. CCDC is streamlining its operations and staff to create stronger efficiencies and Gestion ADC with its various partnerships is doing very well and has all its contracts and partnerships running smoothly.

WE ARE FOCUSING ON  
ENSURING OUR EXISTING  
GROUP OF COMPANIES IS  
OPERATING EFFICIENTLY AND  
THAT THEY ARE MAKING  
MONEY.

**How is the Quality Inn and Suites doing?**

They continues to do extremely well. It just won some new awards and is breaking records for best managed hotel and highest hotel occupancy rates in the region.

**How is Eeyou Eenou Realty Properties doing?**

Our real estate arm is operating smoothly with no immediate plans for any real estate purchases other than to ensure our existing inventory is operating and well maintained for our clients.

**How is CREECO Dumas Mining Company doing?**

Very well, having secured its first contract in the Eleanore Project with Goldcorp.

**Are there any major new initiatives in the works?**

We are focusing on ensuring our existing group of companies is operating efficiently and that they are making money. At the same time, we continue to explore new opportunities as they are presented. Some of the initiatives that we have started are centered on returning to the community. We are developing a policy within all our companies to encourage volunteering and in-kind benefits to our communities. Sometimes the act of giving doesn't take a monetary form but a more personalized approach, which we hope will have a more direct impact.

We have also created a governance committee to guide us further. We think it will increase our transparency with our members and provide additional reassurance to our population. We will be updating on our progress throughout the year so make sure to tune in to our radio show and see our ad in the Nation.

**With the upcoming Grand Council Annual General Assembly, do the Board of Compensation and CREECO provide an update during the agenda?**

Yes, every year we prepare an annual report and we do present at the AGA to ensure the Cree Beneficiaries are fully up to date and that they get the information which is a requirement for us to provide as a board. We are looking forward to that opportunity again and it will be my first time presenting as the new Chairperson/President of the Board of Compensation and CREECO at the AGA.

CREECO is the holding company for:





# How will the apology be honoured?

## Traumatic revelations of a horrific past end with rallies across Canada

by Jesse Staniforth

A number of shocking stories describing the barbaric abuse of Aboriginal people in Canada in the not-too-distant past have surfaced in recent weeks, again exposing the bluntly white-supremacist values that prevailed when today's Elders were young. Old wounds among survivors and descendants of survivors are being painfully reopened.

In the last week, newly unearthed information exposed the deliberate and systematic starvation of Indigenous test subjects during the 1940s and 50s in the name of medical research. With federal government approval, researchers conducted secret nutritional and medical experiments on Aboriginal people without their consent or knowledge.

In another development, lawsuits were filed over the so-called "60s scoop" of Aboriginal children into white homes, as well as the alleged torture of children at St. Anne's Residential School in Fort Albany, Ontario.

This wave of grim news is a lot to take in.

Food historian Ian Mosby exposed the starvation experiments. His research showed that, between 1942 and 1952, the Canadian scientists conducted a government-approved experiment involving intentional starvation on 1,300 Indigenous people, mostly helpless children interned in residential schools. The researchers, after observing the health impacts of starvation on desperately impoverished remote reserves, decided to use Aboriginal children to test the effectiveness of vitamin supplements.

Their goals may have been well intentioned. The post-war researchers rejected the prevailing prejudice against Natives as "shiftless, indolent, improvident and inert" because these were "inherent or hereditary traits in the Indian race." Instead, they argued this was the result of malnourishment.

But rather than increasing support to the communities to enable them to feed themselves, the researchers instead decided to use the starving people as test-subjects for different diets (none of which even resulted in any useful findings). Some people were selected to receive vitamins, while others were chosen to continue starving as a control group. Thus schools were instructed to withhold milk, vitamins, iron and iodine from hungry children, while dental services for children were withdrawn because the researchers

in southern Saskatchewan were used as test subjects for an untested TB vaccine between 1933 and 1945. This occurred at a time when medical officials had already determined that the best course of action to lower TB rates was to improve the desperate living conditions on reserves.

However, those improvements to impoverished conditions – which included digging wells, building frame houses, providing families with farm animals and feed, improving food supplied to children and pregnant women, and assigning nurs-



Photograph of a group of boys and staff at St. Anne's Indian Residential School (Fort Albany, ON) originally created 1945.

worried that dental hygiene would affect the study's results.

Days after this news appeared, APTN reported on research by Brock University Professor Maureen Lux, who is finishing a book on the treatment of Aboriginal people in tuberculosis (TB) sanatoriums at the hands of the Canadian government. Lux's research revealed that children on the Qu'Appelle reserve

es to care for children with infectious diseases in their homes – were more expensive. The federal government apparently hoped to save money by turning to vaccines.

In a campaign backed by Indian Affairs and the National Research Council, children at the Qu'Appelle reserve were given the controversial bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine, which doctors

Credit: Algoma University Archives

# TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP OF OUR HOMES

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had not yet determined was fully safe. While the trial was officially deemed a success, over 100 of the 609 vaccinated children died anyway from non-TB diseases attributable to poverty-related malnutrition.

Finally, a class-action lawsuit on behalf of the 16,000 Indigenous children taken from their homes in the infamous 60s scoop is finally making it to court. To its shame, the federal government is asking a judge to tell it what to do with documents addressing conduct at the St. Anne's Residential School between 1904 to 1976. These documents were collected during a 1990s police inquiry into allegations of abuse and torture at the school (including the use of a homemade electric chair to punish students as young as six).

The federal government argues that the documents cannot be released because they belong to the province of Ontario and because they may contain private statements made to police during the investigation. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt indicated July 22 that it would be best for the issue to be decided by the Ontario Superior Court.

## Honour the apology

In response to the news of the experiments on Aboriginal children, Valcourt released a statement in which he said, "When Prime Minister Harper made a historic apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools in 2008 on behalf of all Canadians, he recognized that this period had caused great harm and had no place in Canada."

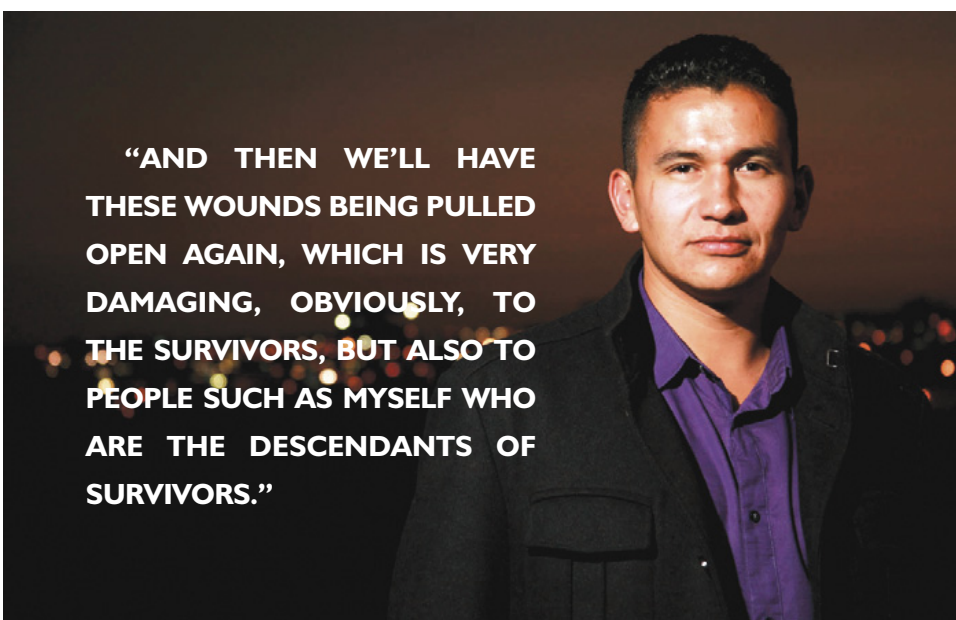
However, many people question the purpose of this blanket apology. One prominent voice asking that question is Wabanakwat ("Wab") Kinew, an Onigaming Ojibwe journalist, activist, musician and Director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg. Following the news of the nutritional experiments, Kinew and other Indigenous activists sprang into action, organizing "Honour The Apology" events across Canada on June 25 to demand that the federal government release all documents pertaining to Indian residential schools.

Reached in Winnipeg after a day that saw rallies in Vancouver, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Toronto, Ottawa, Moose Creek, Opaskwayak and Whitehorse, Kinew was clearly pleased with the extraordinary cross-country mobilization.

"To me it says that most Canadians are on the same page as I am, which is that they think the apology was the right thing to do, they want the intents of the apology to be honoured, and they care about doing the right thing with regard to Indigenous people," he observed.

It's critical to "make sure that we honour those people who have suffered in the past and do our best to make sure that they can live out the rest of their lives in comfort and in peace," he said. "We should also make sure that those types of transgressions should not happen again in the future. Learning the truth about our history is one of the key ways in preventing history from repeating itself."

As news about the nutritional experiments was breaking – and Kinew and others were pulling together to organize the Honour The Apology events – the pace of discussion was sped up thanks to



Wabanakwat ("Wab") Kinew

**"AND THEN WE'LL HAVE THESE WOUNDS BEING PULLED OPEN AGAIN, WHICH IS VERY DAMAGING, OBVIOUSLY, TO THE SURVIVORS, BUT ALSO TO PEOPLE SUCH AS MYSELF WHO ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF SURVIVORS."**

Courtesy of Anthony "Thosh" Collins

Kinew said he has seen people taking different approaches to learning the painful truths around residential schools, as well as to the nutritional experiments and TB testing.

"It varies," said Kinew. "Some communities are very concerned with reclaiming language and traditions as a way to respond to the residential school era. Other communities are fully Christianized – I don't know how they reconcile it. They look at it as an era of transition, I guess."

Above all, Kinew said, the common thread is an appreciation of the importance of supporting Elders who survived residential schools. It is vital that their experience be commemorated, above all by revitalizing the languages and cultures the schools were designed to destroy.

social media. Kinew acknowledged that the Internet has greatly changed the way that Indigenous communities talk among themselves and to each other.

"Indigenous people are more connected than ever before, especially because of social media and in particular Facebook," he said. "We're able to communicate with each other, share information, and also to mobilize. That is new. I don't think that existed the same way in the past. So for instance with this thing that we organized today, Honour the Apology, in some ways it used the same social networks as Idle No More did – some of the same contacts. The experience of having gone through Idle No More last winter made it easier to connect with people."





As he underlined in his Honour The Apology essay, the need to put pressure on the government is becoming more crucial as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) nears the end of its mandate. Kinew worries that the TRC will not get all the documents it requires, and will therefore leave the task of coming to terms with residential schools unfinished.

out of a million is a drop in the bucket, less than 0.1%. If it's taken them this long to turn over 900, how many are they going to turn over by next year?

"First Nations people and other people affected by residential schools in the Indigenous community, we will miss out on a very important step on the healing journey. That is to have full disclosure and

end we need to know. We want to know. In that way, we can look that ugliness in the face, and then turn the page and move on together."

If such traumatic information isn't revealed by the TRC, he went on, it will nonetheless be discovered piece by piece in the future by other researchers.

"And then we'll have these wounds being pulled open again," he said. "Which is very damaging, obviously, to the survivors, but also to people such as myself who are the descendants of survivors."

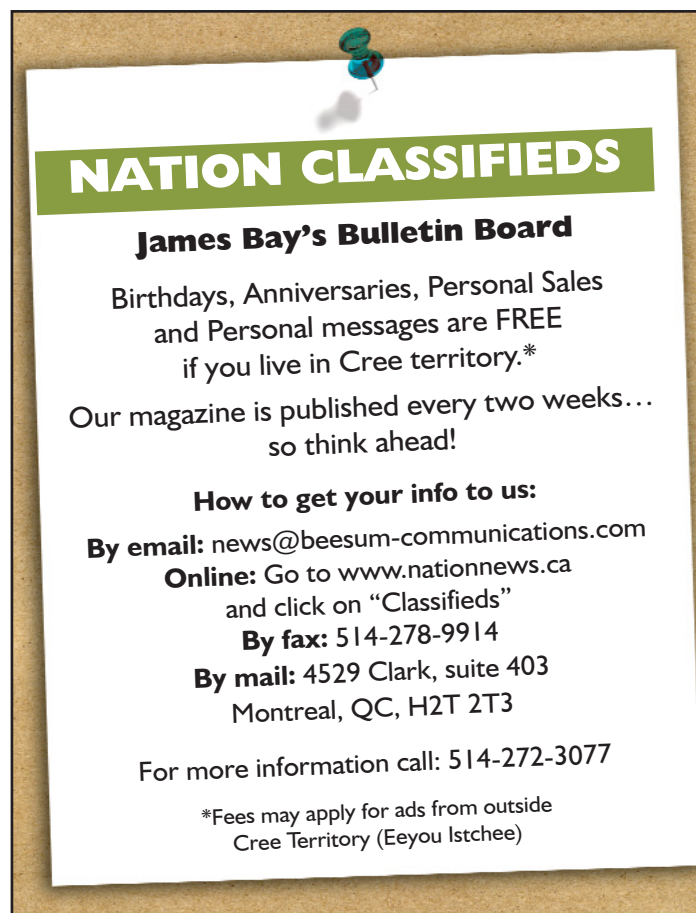
Canada's treatment of Aboriginal peoples is a black mark on its reputation, concluded Kinew. "Canada is a great nation with a troubled history. We can send a clear message that Canada has turned the page and is a country that is proud of and celebrates its indigenous people. But the way to do that is to fully participate in disclosing the truth, and therefore paving the way toward reconciliation."

## "LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR HISTORY IS ONE OF THE KEY WAYS IN PREVENTING HISTORY FROM REPEATING ITSELF."

"I think what's likely to happen is that [the TRC] will get some documents, but far fewer than they should," he said. "The minister today said that he's handed over 900 documents out of the ones that the TRC was asking for. But the TRC says that there are over a million – 900

a full acknowledgement of everything that happened to the survivors, and to our grandparents and parents and aunts and uncles who were affected by this."

Though information about such events as the nutritional and TB experiments is disturbing, said Kinew, "in the



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The Board of Compensation and CREECO also wish to thank all the candidates who undertook the challenge of participating in the election process to lead our great Nation.

Your commitment to the Cree Nation is appreciated and we wish you success in your future challenges.

**Darlene Cheechoo**  
Chairperson, Board of Compensation  
President, CREECO



**NISKAMOON CORPORATION**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of Niskamoon Corporation, I extend our congratulations to Dr. Matthew Coon Come on his re-election as Grand Chief/Chairman and to Rodney Mark, the newly elected Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairman of the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Regional Authority.

We wish you both success in carrying out your mandate to continue to build a strong and vibrant Cree Nation government.

**Violet Pachanos**  
President

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## Shaping the future

The annual Wabun Youth Gathering provides participants life skills to survive

by Xavier Kataquapit

Wabun Youth Gathering featured a mini powwow that was developed and performed by Aboriginal youth. Leading the powwow are (l-r): Brent Boissoneau, Mattagami; Chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan; Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami and Travis Swanson, Brunswick House.

The seventh annual Wabun Youth Gathering held at the Eco Centre Lodge in Elk Lake, Ontario, featured workshops dealing with the critical issues such as suicide prevention, family violence and bullying. Role-playing and skits based on traditional and cultural teachings were utilized to educate participants. Eighty Wabun youth attended the event, which ran from July 15 to 26 and was sponsored by Wabun Tribal Council Health Services.

The event was divided into two parts. The first week (July 15-19) was held for junior youth aged from eight to 12 and the second week (July 22-26) was for senior youth aged 13 to 18. The first week of events featured facilitators Craig Fox of Wikwemikong and Dana Cosgrove of Mattagami. Fox, a traditional teacher and dancer, instructed the male youth on preparations and cere-

monies concerning powwows and dance. Cosgrove provided presentations for female youth in traditional dances, teachings and songs.

A mini powwow, developed and performed by the youth, marked the end of the first week on July 18.

The second week featured a series of workshops by Clayton Small, who led discussions and education on suicide prevention skills and peer support. Small, a northern Cheyenne Native American based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is an Aboriginal leadership specialist who promotes primary suicide intervention techniques. Small also holds a Masters in Education and once held the position of secondary school principal.

Jean Lemieux, Health Director of the Wabun Health Services, pointed out that she has seen positive changes in the Wabun First Nations as a result of the

Wabun Youth Gathering and the various workshops produced by the health department.

"We understand that we must work with our youth from an early age and give them the skills and tools they need to become productive and healthy adults," said Lemieux.

Wabun Youth participants who have been attending the event over the years move into chaperone positions to assist the organizers and facilitators.

"I am kind of amazed that they asked me to help as a junior chaperone this year. I always look forward to coming to the gathering and it has helped me in so many ways through all the traditional teachings we get here," said Mattagami's Brent Boissoneau, 14.

For the first year ever the featured drum-and-singing group came from a Wabun community. The Big Bear Claw



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Matthew Coon Come as Grand Chief  
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The community is looking forward to  
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Singers of Brunswick House, led by Jason Saunders performed traditional songs.

Elder Vina Hendrix, of Matachewan, who has been attending the gathering for years, was once again on hand to provide teachings to the youth.

"This is one of the best things that has ever happened to our First Nations and it provides the opportunity for our youth to gather with each other, our leaders and Elders to learn more about our culture and traditions," commented Hendrix.

Chief Walter Naveau of Mattagami, Chief Elenore Hendrix of Matachewan and Chief Marcia Martel Brown of Beaverhouse were on hand to lend their support and counsel to the event organizers and youth in attendance.

"These young people are our leaders of tomorrow and it is up to us to make sure we do all we can to assist them to become strong and healthy. It makes me feel very proud and optimistic to see these Wabun youth learning our culture and traditions," said Naveau.

Hendrix and Martel Brown congratulated the event organizers and youth for producing over the years what has become a major First Nation event.

Mike Archer, Community Crisis Coordinator, Wabun Health Services, has been coordinating the event for the past seven years.

"IT PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUTH TO GATHER WITH EACH OTHER, OUR LEADERS AND ELDERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CULTURE AND TRADITIONS."

"The Wabun Youth Gathering is the kind of healing that we need more of in our First Nations because it is based on the teachings of tradition and culture. We can only progress and make things better for ourselves as First Nation people if we decide that we really want change and to

develop healthy and strong communities," said Archer.

Morris Naveau, an Elder and a residential school survivor, was on hand to assist with the senior Wabun youth and to share his story of struggle and survival.

Veteran senior Wabun youth participant Samuel Kloetstra of Mattagami pointed out that the event has provided him with confidence and many skills to deal with life. In fact he was selected to sit on the Minister of Ontario's Student Advisory Council as an Aboriginal representative.

The Wabun Youth Gathering came out of the vision and guidance of the late Elder Thomas Saunders, of Brunswick House, who wanted to see the Wabun communities come together in one gathering. Wabun Tribal Council is a regional territorial organization that represents the First Nation communities of Beaverhouse, Brunswick House, Chapleau Ojibwe, Flying Post, Matachewan and Mattagami in north-eastern Ontario.



Wabun Youth Gathering featured two weeks of youth coming together to celebrate Aboriginal culture and heritage, at the Elk Lake Eco Centre in Elk Lake, Ontario from July 15 to 26. Pictured are junior youth from the first week of the gathering.







# Swinging for women

## The first annual Cree Women golf benefit hits a hole in one

by Amy German

It was a golf tournament, a gala event, a Crystal Shawanda concert and a special night to honour a young Cree girl.

The Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association (CWEIA) hosted its first charity golf tournament in Val-d'Or July 18 at the Belvedere Golf Club to launch a new charity cause – the Abby's Dream Foundation. Organizers hope it will be a popular annual event.

Consisting of a competitive day out on the links for about 60 golfers, followed by a banquet dinner and soiree featuring heartfelt addresses and rockin' country tunes from Ojibwa superstar Crystal Shawanda, the event made an indelible stamp on the Cree social scene.

"It was a great success. We had a great team that put the event together and it was an honour to have Abby Masty, the youngest Journey of Nishiyuu walker, be with us for the evening. She did this for the dream she had and she shared it with us," said CWEIA President Virginia Wabano.

While attendees rocked with Shawanda, dined on the Belvedere's delicacies and vied for bragging rights on the links, CWEIA's Regional Economic Development Coordinator Charlotte Ottereyes says no one lost sight of the reason for the event.

Though CWEIA had been toying with the idea of a golf benefit for some time, it was Masty's story that gave the impetus to finally turn that idea into a reality.

"We decided to honour her because she was walking for the Elders, women and children who had been abused. She walked on behalf of them to stop the violence. So we decided to honour her dream," said Ottereyes.

"This is a new foundation that we will use our annual golf tournament to raise funding for every year. This is going to be a fund that will help women and community through projects wherever they are needed."

The inspiration for the event, a now 12-year-old Masty, addressed the attendees and discussed why she walked from her Whapmagoostui home to downtown Ottawa.

According to Ottereyes, the shy young girl amazed everyone at the benefit, talking about her hopes, fears and experi-

While thrilled to have a foundation named in her honour, Masty was a little shy about her English and spoke with the aid of her mother, Rita Masty, about why she walked the distance.

As her mother explained, major journeys are a family affair for the Mastys and the walk was inspired by the family's pre-



Abby sharing her dream at the dinner reception along with her mother Rita Masty and Charlotte Ottereyes, CWEIA regional economic development coordinator

ences along the way on her incredible journey.

"When we originally talked about fundraising, we talked about the golf benefit. Then we heard (Abby's) story and decided that this would not only be a great way to start but also to help Abby and honour her dreams. Together the whole thing was so inspirational, particularly because an 11-year-old had walked the entire distance. If an 11-year-old girl can walk from Whapmagoostui to Ottawa, then we too can accomplish our goals," said Ottereyes.

vious generation as Rita had once trekked 20 km as a five-year-old in the wintertime, without snowshoes.

"My 14-year-old sister's baby died at camp. So we had to leave our camp to go to Whapmagoostui. At the time there wasn't a bush radio or any form of communication to contact anyone. Being just five years old and walking without snowshoes was very hard," said Rita.

She went on to explain that Abby's younger brother, Lyle, was also a source of inspiration when it came to this journey as he went on a canoe journey from

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Mistissini to Waskaganish in 2008, not even knowing how to paddle a small canoe. By the time he finished, Lyle was a pro and became Abby's inspiration to finish the journey.

In all, her walk was really about doing what a child in her position could do to raise awareness to the causes that were dear to her and help try to change the world. As her mother explained, Abby walked to raise awareness about the issues that Crees face as a nation and raise money to start up athletic programs for girls, fund teaching programs to pass on traditional knowledge, help end family violence and to help the needy in the Cree Nation.

"She inspired me to become a better person and continue my healing. I will do my part to support her to accomplish her dreams. I hope those people who are still waiting to meet with her will get their chance," said Rita.

While Abby captivated the hearts and minds of those listening to her speak, according to Wabano, the evening's entertainment was also about inspiring women in the Cree Nation to strive towards their goals. Inviting Shawanda to both speak about her life in the music industry and what it was like to strive from her humble beginnings as an Ojibway gal from the Wikwemikong Reserve to Canadian superstardom.

"We have many women who face challenges when it comes to being successful so we wanted to use Shawanda as a role model because the music industry is very tough for Native people and she succeeded. She fought her way up and now has received all kinds of recognition, including a Juno award," said Wabano.

According to Ottereyes, Shawanda was an obvious choice for CWEIA's first benefit because the singer feels connected to the organization's mission to empower the women of the Cree Nation.



Crystal Shawanda

"She had once spoken to me about how amazed she was with what we have been doing with CWEIA. She said that she would be honoured to help us," said Ottereyes.

But, big names weren't the only thing that made the event memorable. Ottereyes said it was the presence of several Elders from Whapmagoostui that added so much to the evening as they shared their wisdom and knowledge with those attending the event.

"This was a first, to see the community bring their Elders down for this kind of an event. To have our Elders there was just amazing because we respect them

so much and they are who we go to for advice," said Ottereyes.

In total Ottereyes said that about 100-120 Natives and non-Natives participated in the launch of the foundation and celebrated the achievements of Cree women.

While the Abby's Dream Foundation is not yet an official charity, CWEIA has begun the lengthy proceedings to legally set up the charity. The event raised funds that will help get the foundation off the ground, and, eventually, help realize the hopes and dreams of so many Crees, and Abby's in particular.



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# Speaking with our ancestors

## Wemindji teacher Theresa Kakabat Georgekish keeps Cree culture alive

As told to Eleanor Cowan

Valuing the Cree language means pondering each syllabic and understanding that at some point in time, one of my ancestors used it to express not only a noun, but also to tell what that person, place, animal or thing was doing at that moment in history.

Each of our 148 syllabic letters reflects our past in a way no other mirror could do. And it's alive, because in voicing the sounds, we welcome our past legacy into our future.

The importance of respecting our history was not always at the top of my list, though. Survival was.

I'm still astonished that someone who loved school as much as I did left it so suddenly. The day my Dad died in the bush, leaving his seven children behind, was my last day at school. When I approached my mother on the evening of his terrible winter accident, she asked for my help. Up until then, I may have been Daddy's girl, but I was also the eldest child and only daughter. Overnight, at the age of 12, I stepped up to my new position as caregiver of six younger brothers. It was a huge leap for both my mother and I.

I lost my father, Alan Kakabat, and have never recovered from the loss. Yet, at the same time, I recognize that life gave me many mothers, special women who genuinely guided my life.

Up until the time of my father's ice accident, he and my mother spent most of the year in the bush, while I lived in town with Margaret Kakabat, a loving aunt who walked me to school each day and waved goodbye to me just as my teacher Denise Georgekish smiled hello. I loved my Grade 1 teacher and felt secure in her class, a happy place where I discovered that learning was fun. One day as I watched Denise show great kindness to a classmate, I realized that I wanted to become a

I LOST MY FATHER, ALAN KAKABAT, AND HAVE NEVER RECOVERED FROM THE LOSS. YET, AT THE SAME TIME, I RECOGNIZE THAT LIFE GAVE ME MANY MOTHERS, SPECIAL WOMEN WHO GENUINELY GUIDED MY LIFE.

teacher too. Another wonderful teacher, Brenda Mills, reinforced my goal to follow in her footsteps.

My mother became a great role model for me. Immediately following Dad's death, both of us began to work to support ourselves and the younger boys. I kept house for neighbours



Theresa Kakabat Georgekish

and babysat. My mom worked at a variety of tasks, including as a Cree translator at the clinic before she became a teaching assistant at Maquatua Eeyou School here in Wemindji. She earned a regular income for our family. Despite her shyness, when my mother was asked to teach Cree language, she agreed. She taught well and with enthusiasm for 23 years. So that makes me the daughter of a Keeper of the Language. My mother – a full-time mother, homemaker and teacher – was my inspiration.

Both my grandmothers lost their husbands due to accidents and illness when their children were quite young, so when our tragedy occurred, my mother had two examples of courage. I was blessed with devoted grandmothers, Lydia Ratt and Sally Kakabat, women who took full responsibility to carry on with strength. They prepared me for my future.

I matured so quickly that people didn't think I was my age. I met my husband, Frank, when I was 16. I don't think he, a 19-year-old, knew how old I was. Our first date was a skidoo ride together and I nearly froze because he didn't take me home when I asked him to. A few days later, he wanted to know why I didn't show up for our second date, another skidoo ride, and I said it was because he hadn't taken me home when I'd asked and that I'd been very cold. The following night, when he arrived at my door with a beautiful, warm-as-toast winter parka, I had to smile. We got married on my 17th birthday.

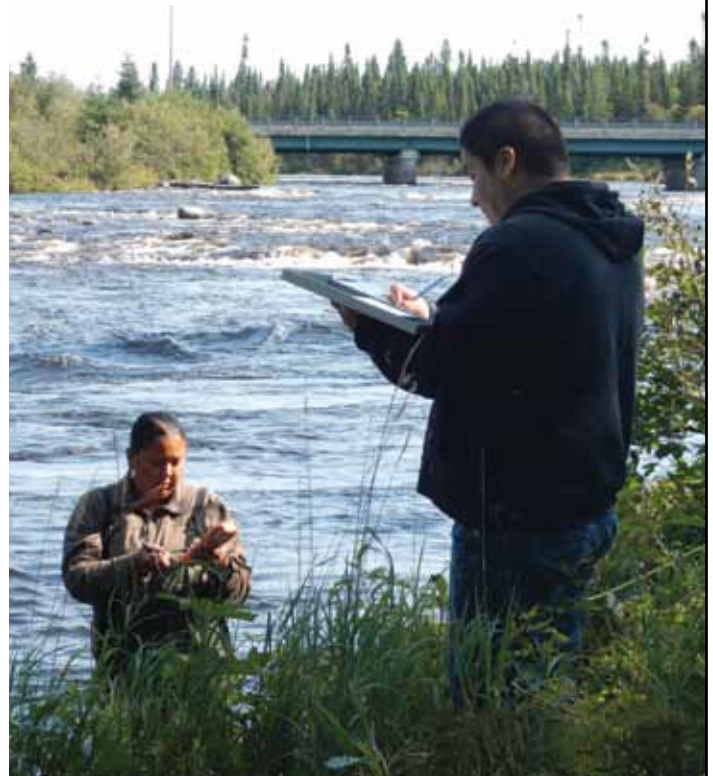
My motivation to study Cree came from the desire to know the joy that I could clearly see my Mom experience when teaching our language. It was an incredible challenge for me because now I was a young mother and had to juggle school and a family with three young children – Rhonda, Damian and Marissa.

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## AS CREE PEOPLE, WE OWN A PRECIOUS TREASURE THAT IDENTIFIES AND UNIFIES US.

SOME ARE FORTUNATE TO RECEIVE THIS GIFT EASILY AND EFFORTLESSLY ON THEIR PARENTS' KNEES. THOSE CREE WHO HAVE NOT LEARNED IT MUST STUDY HARD TO RECLAIM THEIR HERITAGE. WE, CREE TEACHERS, ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS TO POLISH THE GIFT OF OUR ANCIENT CREE LANGUAGE AND IN THIS WAY, WE CAN SPEAK OUR ANCESTORS INTO THE NEXT GENERATION.

When I started substituting at Maquatua Eeyou School, I did more than what was expected of me. I wanted to prove my worthiness. One year, Principal Joseph Vettikal called me into his office and commended my work. He suggested I take UQAT (Université du Québec en Abitibi- Témiscamingue) courses to become a teacher. When Deborah Cox approved my letter of request and I was accepted, I was ecstatic. Since then, Principal Rose Marie Farago has given Cree teachers her full support. At our school we have our own classrooms.

In 1993, I began my teacher training while working as a Cree Language Teacher, sometimes travelling for courses to Chisasibi or Whapmagoostui. Then, pregnant with my second daughter, Marissa, I started off as a Grade 6 teacher with Venetia Crawford as my supervising teacher. Venetia was wonderful to me and I learned so much just observing her work. In September, I did more training with Ida Gilpin and after Christmas I trained with my Mom, which was, for me, a rare mother-daughter experience.

For the first time ever, a Cree literacy program was offered by McGill University and my mother and I enrolled together, along with Barbara Georgekish, Frances Mark and Ida Gilpin. In fact, we were the first graduates of the Cree Language Literacy program in Wemindji. What a fine graduation party we had at the community hall!

Frances Visitor was the one of the first teachers to integrate our Cree language into the Grade 3 curriculum. I was

impressed with her knowledge of our language and profoundly moved by her rich vocabulary and expression. I wanted to be like her. Now, my love of Cree became passionate.

I understand the pressure our students experience as they prepare to enter competitive college, career or university programs conducted in English. Still, professional considerations need not silence Cree voices. Instead, harmonizing several languages is the answer. What many people don't know is that three-year-olds can speak four languages as easily as they can eat four different foods. Children are brilliant. So, it shouldn't be either/or. The key word is "both". Why exchange one language for another when we can have both – or more?

It is the parents of our children who will model multilingualism in our Cree households. It is the parents who hold the future of the Cree language in their hands.

As Cree people, we own a precious treasure that identifies and unifies us. Some are fortunate to receive this gift easily and effortlessly on their parents' knees. Those Cree who have not learned it must study hard to reclaim their heritage. We, Cree teachers, encourage our students to polish the gift of our ancient Cree language and in this way, we can speak our ancestors into the next generation.

*This is the second of three interviews with Cree teachers from Wemindji.*

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to the new leaders of the Grand  
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May your term bring prosperity to all of  
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## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

# Wabun Youth Gathering: investing in our future

by Xavier Kataquapit

If First Nations across this country are going to change for the better, it will be as a result of the efforts of our young people. They will become our leaders, our teachers, our bureaucrats, our medical people and our community builders. The attention, opportunities and education and training that we provide to these young Native people now will pay off for everyone in the future.

I have seen the result of taking the time and making the effort to focus on the betterment of First Nation youth. For many years now, I have been attending the Wabun Youth Gathering near Matachewan First Nation at the Eco Lodge in Elk Lake, Ontario. I have come to know many of the Wabun young people who have participated in this gathering for seven years now. I have seen so many of them grow by learning skills and tools passed on to them in traditional and cultural based workshops and teachings. I have seen the communities of Wabun Tribal Council, through the directions of the chiefs; provide a camp-like retreat where these First Nation youth have a safe, supportive, caring and positive environment to learn the necessary survival skills they need.

Renowned Aboriginal facilitators from all over North America have featured workshops and training sessions to assist young people with critical education and information about issues such as: suicide prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, family and personal violence as well as dealing with bullying. I have experienced firsthand, the changes that have taken place in many of the young people who have participated in these youth gatherings over the years.

When I first met Samuel Kloetstra, of Mattagami, at an early gathering, I noticed that he was a bright, intelligent and sensitive boy. He was also very shy and introverted. Over the years I have seen him grow to the point where he has become a chaperone for younger people and a role model. In fact, he was invited by the province to sit on the Ontario Minister's Student Advisory Council. He is finding himself as a strong First Nation man. I know he is thankful for the efforts of the Wabun chiefs and staff for assisting him with traditional and cultural teachings. I am so happy and proud for him.

Jaimee Roy, a First Nation woman from Matachewan, is someone who has graduated from the Wabun Youth Gathering process. When I first met her, she was extremely shy but today she is a strong, confident and capable person. She has graduat-

ed with a college degree in the Social Sciences and will be taking a university program this year.

Jaimee, Samuel and all of the other fine Wabun Youth who have attended these gatherings will tell you that they are thankful to some key people for the opportunities they received. People like Jean Lemieux, Wabun's Health Director, who responded to the wishes of the late Elder Thomas Saunders to provide a gathering where First Nation youth could receive traditional and cultural teachings. She kept her promise to Elder Saunders, of Brunswick House, to do her best to produce the means and venue where Wabun Youth could receive the skills and tools they need to survive. She did this in part by turning to Mike Archer, Crisis Coordinator for Wabun Health Services, with a request that he would create and manage an annual Wabun Youth Gathering. Archer, a burly man with an enormous heart, has managed to gain the trust of Wabun First Nation youth over the years and he has produced one of the country's foremost Aboriginal teaching and healing gatherings.

Archer has succeeded in bringing together some of the best Aboriginal minds from across North America to work with First Nation youth on critical and important issues. He has created an environment where the facilitators work with chaperones from the First Nations, chiefs and Elders to create a safe and supportive climate for young people to speak out and to learn.

I have had many bad experiences dealing with tragedies in our First Nations. I have lost family members and friends to alcohol, drugs, violence and suicide. For a long time, I felt that nothing was being done or could be done to help our young people. Life for First Nations and in particular in remote First Nations is very difficult and seemingly hopeless.

My experience with the Wabun Youth Gathering has given me a new hope for the future. It also has made me realize that nothing will change for the better unless people step up to dedicate themselves to producing mechanisms that will help our young people.

The Wabun Youth Gathering is a template that I would like to see picked up by tribal councils and First Nation organizations right across Canada. I just wish we had more people like Lemieux and Archer to dedicate their time, energy and skills to our most precious resource – our First Nation Youth. We need to move on and out of the hurt, dysfunction and negativity our youth are living with. We need to give our youth the skills and knowledge to survive in a difficult and rapidly changing world.



**The Mistassini Hostels have been added to Schedule F of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement ("IRSS Agreement") for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978.**

*To all who resided at the Mistassini Hostels in Northern Quebec between September 1, 1971 and June 30, 1978*

**BE ADVISED** that the Mistassini Hostels have been added to the list of "Indian Residential Schools" under the IRSS Agreement for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978. Justice Rolland of the Superior Court of Justice has ordered that former residents of the Mistassini Hostels who resided there during the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978 are eligible to apply for compensation in the form of a Common Experience Payment (CEP). As well, those former residents who suffered sexual and/or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects while at these hostels, may apply for additional compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP).

All **CEP** applications relating to the Mistassini Hostels must be filed **on or before September 2, 2013**. All **IAP** applications

relating to the Mistassini Hostels filed **on or before September 2, 2013** will be considered to have been received by September 19, 2012.

This Notice extends only to applications relating to residence at the Mistassini Hostels. ***It does not alter the existing deadlines under the IRSS Agreement in place for other eligible Indian Residential Schools.***

For more information on both processes, please call toll free, 1.866.879.4913, or go to [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca) to read the Settlement Agreement and other Court approved notices, or write to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber Street North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9. The IRS Crisis Line (1.866.925.4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

**For more information call 1.866.879.4913 or visit [www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca](http://www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca).**



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**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688**  
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## Suicide Action Québec:

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**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: [www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources](http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources)

**Concordia University, Montreal:**

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: [aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca](mailto:aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca) or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

**Congratulations to Grand Chief Dr. Matthew Coon Come and to Deputy Grand Chief Rodney Mark for winning the GCC Eeyou Eenou Istchee election.**

**On behalf of the Ville de La Sarre,  
Mayor, Normand Houde**



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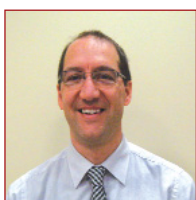
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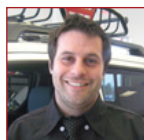


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